

**William D. Polansky**

212 S. Roosevelt  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
(812) 339-4380

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May 31, 1999

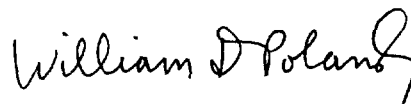
Thomas J. Billy, FSIS Administrator  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Rm. 331-E  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mr. Billy:

I am a member of the Center for Science in the Public Interest. I am taking the time to write to you about food irradiation. I realize that there are both reasons for and reasons against irradiation, and I personally have not studied the question enough to make a personal decision one way or the other.

However, it does not take any study at all for me to know that I would be outraged if irradiation would be permitted without a requirement that irradiated food be so labelled. I urge you in the strongest terms that permitting irradiation should be done only with a labelling requirement not only for grocery store items but also for restaurants. I want to have the choice to make, to buy or not buy irradiated food products, and without a labelling requirement I and everyone else will be denied the opportunity to decide whether or not to eat irradiated food.

Sincerely,



William D. Polansky

WDP\hs

cc: Jane E. Henney, FDA Commissioner

98N-1038

C2879

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Bloomington, IN 47408  
(812) 339-4380

May 31, 1999

Commissioner Jane E. Henney  
Parklawn Building, Rm. 14-71  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I am writing in support of the petition filed by the Center for Science in the Public Interest asking that medically useful antibiotics be banned from animal feed.

Whenever my child comes down with an ear infection or other common malady for which the doctor prescribes an antibiotic, the instructions are always the same: use the entire amount prescribed even if the condition is cured part-way through. The reason is that we need to completely kill the target bacteria, because if any survives it is likely over time to become resistant to the particular antibiotic, and then there would be no treatment unless and until a replacement antibiotic could be developed. This requirement can be burdensome for conscientious parents like my wife and me, who follow the rules, because the child often strenuously resists taking the medicine.

And, who knows, our efforts may be for naught, as the bacteria are going to develop resistance from being exposed to the antibiotics in animal feed. As I understand it, the purpose of putting the antibiotics in animal feed is that the animals grow faster. In other words, the producers of beef and chicken are allowed to pose a threat to the efficacy of antibiotics so they may make more money. That leaves me feeling left out of the equation, and I am writing to you to protest that state of affairs.

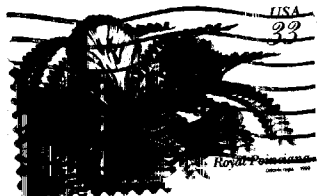
Sincerely,

*William D. Polansky*

William D. Polansky

WDP\hs

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SPECIAL DELIVERY



COMMISSIONER JANE E. HENNEY  
PARKLAWN BUILDING, RM. 14-71  
5600 FISHERS LANE  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20857

